



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007
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CADIZ DRUG DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

– Three defendants involved in police purchase of over \$34,000 in crystal meth

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Shannon Hargrove**, age 38, of Cadiz, Kentucky pled guilty to conspiring with co-defendants Kerry Wigginton and Danny Webb to knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and aiding and abetting each other in the distribution of more than 5 grams of methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

In an undercover operation, the Kentucky State Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration utilized a confidential informant to conduct five controlled purchases of methamphetamine totaling 341 grams during the course of the conspiracy charged in the Indictment. Hargrove admitted that the last controlled purchase was for 8 ounces of methamphetamine (224 grams) for \$12,500. The total methamphetamine recovered during the course of the conspiracy has a street value of over \$34,000.

Hargrove admitted that he sold methamphetamine to co-defendant Kerry Wigginton. Wigginton in turn re-sold the methamphetamine to co-defendant Danny Webb. Wigginton eventually introduced Webb to Hargrove as a source of supply for methamphetamine and brokered four to six methamphetamine transactions between Webb and Hargrove. Normally each transaction was for one to two ounces (28 to 56 grams) of methamphetamine. However, for

one or two transactions, the amount of meth was larger than two ounces.

Hargrove also admitted that he would give Wigginton methamphetamine for his personal use for brokering the methamphetamine transactions with Webb. The methamphetamine transactions with Hargrove took place at Hargrove's trailer or at the lake near Hargrove's residence in the Western District of Kentucky.

The maximum potential penalties for the conspiracy charge are forty years imprisonment, a \$2,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of any number of years up to life; and the minimum potential penalties are five years imprisonment, and supervised release for a period of not less than four years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michele Thielhorn, and it was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kentucky State Police, and the Marshall County Sheriff's Department.

The plea was entered before Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky.

Co-defendants Webb and Wigginton had previously pleaded guilty and are scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Russell on October 23, 2007, at 11:45 a.m., in Paducah, Kentucky. Shannon Hargrove is scheduled to be sentenced on December 11, 2007 at 11:30 a.m.

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